

Remarks

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-6 and 8 remain in the application. Claims 7 and 9 – 59 are canceled.

Substance of Interview

In a telephone interview on April 28, 2010, the applicants discussed with the Examiner the merits of claims 1 and 7 as they relate to the cited art. The applicants pointed out that the cited art fails to disclose the "testing-related" elements recited in claim 1 and fails to disclose the limitation of claim 7. The applicants proposed incorporating the limitations of claim 7 into claim 1.

Additional Remarks

Claims 1, 2, and 5 – 8 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thackston (US2002/0072820), Thackston (US 6,295,513) and Sanchez-Lazer et al. (US 6,000,945). The applicants see Thackston as basically disclosing a method of coordinating the design input from a number of companies that after designing the product ultimately build the product according to the final design. The applicants see Sanchez-Lazer as basically offering pre-existing test items (e.g., quiz or exam sections). A customer (e.g., a school? or a teacher?) selects which test items they would like, and those items are then assembled or compiled to create a complete test as requested by the customer.

The applicants submit that none of the cited references (including Thackston and Sanchez-Lazer) disclose a first company testing a product and that company subsequently appending/forwarding the test results onto a second company, as basically recited in claim 1. Also, none of the cited references disclose a method wherein after manufacturing of the product has already begun, a late customer change is added to the specification, and the final manufactured product incorporates the late customer change, as basically recited in the latest amendment of claim 1.

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Consequently, the applicants submit that the current claims are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited art, thus the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow claims 1-6 and 8.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert J. Harter
Registration No. 32,031
608-519-1400